

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in view of the above Amendment and the discussion below.

Prior to discussing the presently claimed invention, Applicants through their attorney wish to thank the Examiner in charge of this application for the courtesies extended during the March 15, 2005 personal interview during which claim 22, as submitted herewith, was discussed.

The final Office Action of August 12, 2004 rejected claims 21, 2-8 and 15-20 as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Ryan (U.S. Patent No.: 4,825,465) in view of Close. Additionally, claims 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 9-14 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim but containing allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form.

In response to this rejection, Applicants have canceled claims 2-21 and added new claims 22-36.

A copy of new claim 22 was retained by the Examiner and serves as the basis for Applicants request for allowance of this Application.

Claim 22 now recites that the system, which chooses a particular user station from among a plurality of user stations connected in parallel, includes a plurality of identical cells equal to the number of user stations and that each cell includes a first electronic device 18, 20, 22 for rectification of the alternating and direct line current through the cell and for electronic separation of a ground of said each cell from a respective grounds of other ones of said cells. Also, included is a second electronic device 28 to connect a respective corresponding user station to the common source of voltage and a device for providing an automatic blocking command 48, which device includes a plurality of optical photo couplers each associated with one of the cells not corresponding to the chosen user station.

The reference to Ryan uses a mechanical relay structure and not an electronic switching system. It is to be noted that the background of the invention of the present application at page 2, specifically indicates that

electromagnetic relays require relatively high operating currents and that the present invention improves over such devices.

More particularly, the reference to Ryan fails to disclose the electronic separation of a ground of said each cell from respective grounds of other ones of said cells and that the reference to Ryan fails to disclose that each cell has a plurality of optical photo couplers each associated with one of the cells not corresponding to the chosen user. There is no indication Ryan could work with anything other than two devices and therefore each of the "cells" would not have a plurality of an optical coupler with each of those optical couplers being associated with one of the not chosen stations.

Furthermore, it is not obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to make the necessary modification of Ryan to meet the claim limitations even accepting showing of the reference to Close for using photo couplers. To reconstruct Ryan to meet the claimed limitations would destroy the original concept of Ryan and would only be possible using the teachings of the present invention which is an impermissible hindsight construction.

Dependent claims 23-36 further limit independent claim 22 and are thus also submitted as allowable.

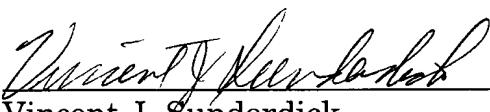
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this application containing claims 22-36 be allowed and be passed to issue.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #100718.54209US).

Respectfully submitted,

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